

**MINUTES  
TOWN OF DARIEN  
PARKING AUTHORITY  
SPECIAL MEETING**

**April 21, 2014**

A special meeting of the Parking Authority was held on Monday, April 21, 2014. In attendance were First Selectman Stevenson, Selectmen Hall, Marks, Nielsen and Tierney.

**CALL TO ORDER**

First Selectman Stevenson called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

After reviewing the earlier presentation and meeting minutes, Kip Hall questioned the need to involve the State Department of Transportation (DOT) in any changes. Mr. Kilduff responded that it is best to view the DOT as a partner and they should be brought into the discussion once the Parking Authority has reached certain decisions.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**a) Discuss Parking Authority Mission Statement**

Sample mission statements for the Parking Authority were distributed for discussion and consideration. After some deliberation, the Authority developed a mission statement which read "The Darien Parking Authority seeks to create and implement parking solutions that balance the needs of Darien commuters, shoppers, visitors and downtown employers." Mr. Nielsen moved, seconded by Mr. Tierney, to adopt the agreed upon mission statement. The motion passed in a 5-0 vote.

**b) Discuss Parking Policy Goals**

A list of sample goals were read for the Authority's consideration which included, planning for the creation of new parking capacity; identifying partners to pursue a public-private partnership for parking garage; studying utilization and turnover in parking lots; and developing a long-term strategic plan for parking system.

Mr. Tierney emphasized that a new parking structure should minimize any impact to the mill rate. The Authority discussed potential arrangements and the priority for cost effective solutions. One goal was amended to read: "Develop a cost-effective, long-term strategic plan for parking system."

Mr. Tierney spoke to a goal that would ensure Darien residents receive a benefit from parking solutions. The Authority debated approaches and the areas governed by State lease compared to Town-owned land. The Authority agreed to a goal of exploring ways to maximize commuter parking on Town-owned land.

The Authority members discussed the approach to regulatory changes and public engagement, along with the mentality of parkers, downtown parking and walking, and public education. This discussion led to a goal to seek public feedback and to develop a public awareness campaign for parking options.

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First Selectman Stevenson expressed an interest in receiving commuter feedback on other 21<sup>st</sup> century amenities, electric vehicle charging stations, bikes and scooters.

**c) Discuss Future Items for Consideration**

First Selectman Stevenson wanted to have a future meeting schedule for the Authority which would outline critical meeting dates to adjust parking rates and allow for public hearings.

The Authority also discussed the possibility of re-appropriating funding to study a parking garage at Leroy West to focus on other parking issues. The Authority felt it important to get traffic study data for the site at a minimum and then focus the remaining funds on studying other parking issues.

First Selectman Stevenson noted the need to follow-up with the Planning & Zoning Commission regarding a review of their regulations and the permits which were issued as a part of the permit approval process. It was emphasized again as a goal to have the Parking Authority involved in the zoning approval process.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The Parking Authority adjourned the meeting at 8:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Karl F. Kilduff

Town Administrator